

'non-creamy layer' status of an OBC candidate beyond three years becomes stale. The CAT has, however, clarified that the Government is at liberty to make rules reducing or enhancing the said period.

Vigilance awareness week

†2493. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a policy to celebrate vigilance awareness week to check corruption in its offices;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of able and honest officers identified so far by Government;

(d) whether there is any national policy of the Government for elimination of corruption;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, whether Government would formulate such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) The Vigilance Awareness Week is observed every year since the year 2000, at the instance of the Central Vigilance Commission. The main purpose is to make people in general, and the stakeholders of the respective organizations in particular, aware of the various preventive measures/ systems improvement that had been introduced by the Organization to reduce the scope of corruption.

(b) The observance of the week helps in catalyzing action to fight corruption.

(c) The aim of observing vigilance awareness week is to generate awareness among people against corruption and not to identify able and honest officers.

(d) and (e) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of 'zero tolerance' of corruption. Several steps have been taken to remove

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

corruption and to improve administrative functioning. Important among them are: enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005; Notification of the Whistle Blowers Resolution 2004; the proactive involvement of Ministry/ Department through Annual Action Plan on vigilance; issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; enactment of CVC Act, 2003 and strengthening the CBI to discharge its anti-corruption work; increased use of information and Communication Technology; introduction of Citizen Charters & simplifications of procedures/systems, which also aim at eradicating corruption by improving transparency & accountability.

(f) Does not arise.

Upgradation of pay scale

2494. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOPT has upgraded the pay-scale of Assistants in Central Secretariat, Service from Rs. 5500-9000 to 6500-10500;

(b) whether it is a fact that mode recruitment, charter of duties and training in this grade in CSS/Railway Board/Ministry of External Affairs/ Armed Forces HQs are same and selection is by a single competitive exams by the Staff Selection Commission;

(c) if so, whether the up-gradation in pay scale has been done for only CSS; and

(d) the reasons for not upgrading the employees of Ministry of External Affairs and Armed Forces HQs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The pay scale of Assistants of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and Personal Assistants of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) as well as Assistants of Railway Board Secretariat Service (RBSS) and Steno-'C' of Railway Board Secretariat Stenographer's Service (RBSSS) has been upgraded to Rs. 6500-10500 from Rs. 5500-9000 to maintain parity with the pay scale of the Inspectors of Central Board of